

## FISCAL NOTE

### SB 733 - HB 1599

April 16, 2001

#### SUMMARY OF BILL:

- Requires the Commissioner of Education to include in the published maximum school class size limits, instructional grouping requirements for special education, with no instruction group to exceed an age range greater than 36 months.
- Requires the State Board of Education, in consultation with the Department of Education, to establish class size standards and case load standards for instructional personnel, and teachers having the primary responsibility for the development, implementation and updating of a student's IEP. Standards shall include classroom instruction for students with mild disabilities, moderate disabilities and disabilities not appropriately receiving instruction in the regular classroom. The severity of the disability shall be a weighting factor that will be included in any one teacher's classroom.

#### ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

**Increase State Expenditures - Exceeds \$10,000,000**

**Increase Local Govt. Expenditures\* - Exceeds \$10,000,000**

Estimate based on the following:

- The increase to state and local government expenditures is due largely to the weighting factor for maximum limits in inclusionary or integrated classrooms.
- There are 143,472 special education students according to the Department of Education's Report Card 2000.
- Using an average weighting factor of 0.5 (each special education student is counted on average as 1.5 students), this would mean 71,736 *students* would be added to the class size counts.
- Using an average class size of 30 (this is the maximum for grades 4-6 and the average for grades 7-12 required by the Education Improvement Act), approximately 2,391 additional teachers required to be hired.
- Therefore, 2,391 additional teachers x \$37,790 (average annual salary) = \$90,363,448
- In addition, classroom space will also be required for the additional teachers. Under the BEP the 75% *state share* will be \$67,772,586 and the 25% *local share* will be \$22,590,862.

According to the Department of Education, class size standards will be established beginning in school year 2001-02. The department, in consultation with the State Board of Education, is currently in the process of establishing class size/case load requirements for special education. An improvement will be submitted in the Department of Education's budget request for FY02-03 to implement these standards.

*\*Article II, Section 24 of the Tennessee Constitution provides that: no law of general application shall impose increased expenditure requirements on cities or counties unless the General Assembly shall provide that the state share in the cost.*

#### CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.



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James A. Davenport, Executive Director